(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) The Export Oriented Units are eligible for reimbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST) on supplies effected from the Domestic Tariff Area.

Shortfall in the Exports

569. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the PRIME MIINSTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the steps taken to boost exports, have failed to increase exports to any perceptible degree during 1991-92 and 1992-93 so far;

(b) whether any further steps, including exploitation of agricultural sector, have lately been or are proposed to be taken to meet the export targets; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated shortfall during the period from April, 1992 and till date and how far it is likely to be made good as a result of the fresh steps during the rest of the current year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The export performance depends on a large number of factors such as availability of surpluses for export, agricultural production, industrial production, availability of credit, inflation rate, domestic demand as also global factors such as global trading environment, economic environment in our trading partner countries, external demand for our products etc. The aggregate exports registered a decline of 1.7% in dollar terms during 1991-92. However, during the first six months of the current financial year i.e. April-September, 1992, the aggregate exports registered a growth of 5.4 percent in dollar terms, thus reversing the negative trends witnessed during the previous year. It is worth mentioning that the exports to the General Currency Area (GCA) countries registered a growth of 12.1 percent during this period.

(b) and (c) The export targets are fixed on a financial year basis. Hence, it would not be appropriate to assess its shortfall or otherwise at this stage. However, the Government has taken several initiatives to achieve the export target set for the financial year 1992-93. These include formulation of a short-term action plan for boosting exports during the financial year 1992-93, identification of 34 commodities as 'Extreme Focus Sectors', an intensive dialogue with export houses and leading industrial houses, launching of a national quality awareness programme, exchange of delegations with trading partners, organisation of buyer-seller meets, holding of international trade fairs and exhibitions, etc.

Affairs of Kandla Free Trade Zone

570. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Kandla Free trade zone is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therof; and

(c) what measures have been taken proposed to be taken by Government to retrieve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade-Deficit of India

571. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRTAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new economic, trade and industrial policies implemented by India have any effect on the trade deficit;

(b) what was the trade deficit in 1990-91 and 1991-92, in terms of rupee as well as dollars; and

(c) the trade deficit during the period from March to October in the current year, month-wise and the figures for corresponding period of the last year ?